

**Town of East Hampton
Town Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 26, 2024
Town Hall Council Chambers and Zoom**

MINUTES

Present: Chairman Dean Markham, Vice Chairperson Karen Wanat, Council Members Deborah Cunningham, Tim Feegel, Richard Knotek, Jack Solomon, and Jordan Werme and Town Manager David Cox.

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Markham called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers and via Zoom.

Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Solomon, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to adopt the agenda as submitted. Voted (7-0).

Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting of March 12, 2024

A motion was made by Mr. Solomon, seconded by Ms. Wanat, to approve the minutes of the Town Council Regular Meeting of March 12, 2024 as submitted. Voted (7-0).

Public Remarks

Bob Yenknor, 83 Spellman Point Road, Lori Wilcox, 4 Hawthorne Road, Susan McFarland, 52 Meeks Point Road, Kevin Reed, Justin Kelly, 31 Lakewood Road, Daniel Silva, Cornwell Terrace, Dennis Jenks, 33 Meeks Point Road, Linda Schroth, 47 Spellman Point Road, Marty Podskoch, 43 O'Neill Lane, Sabrina Martucci, 31 Lakewood Road, and Wes Jenks, 45 Meeks Point Road, provided comments on water runoff into the lake from the development behind the Town Hall and the logging being done on the property at the top of Lakewood Road. Comments were made about the same issues happening 30 years ago when Lake Vista was in the process of being built. Also, the environmental impact of the Lakewood Road property was discussed including possible endangered species.

Derek Johnson, 36 Lakewood Road, commented on the staff and resources in the Planning & Zoning Department and Inland Wetlands including the vacant Town Planner position.

Barbara Moore, 7 Overlook Road, reported that she is on the CT Office of Tourism Board noting if anyone has any tourism ideas for the town or questions they can contact her.

Presentations

Presentation from East Hampton Lions Club on Choose Kindness Program

Lions Club member Mary Krogh provided an overview of a new Lions Club initiative called Choose Kindness. The program began with a plan to work with the school system, but it has expanded to a townwide program including town agencies and businesses during the week of April 15–19. A proclamation will be prepared for the next meeting for Choose Kindness.

Bids & Contacts

Consideration of Actions Related to Wopowog Road Culvert Replacement

- **Review and Possible Approval of Contract**
- **Consideration of a Motion to Allocate ARPA Interest Funds to the Project**

Director of Public Works Matt Walsh provided an overview of the memos provided regarding the replacement of the Wopowog Road Culvert over Safstrom Brook. The memos will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office.

A motion was made by Ms. Wanat, seconded by Mr. Solomon, to award the bid for the culvert replacement on Wopowog Road to Southern Industries Corporation of Tarrytown, NY in the amount of \$400,850. Voted (7-0)

A motion was made by Ms. Wanat, seconded by Mr. Werme, to allocate up to \$100,000 in ARPA interest funding to the Wopowog Road Culvert Replacement project. Voted (7-0)

Resolutions/ Ordinances/ Policies/ Proclamations

None

Continued Business

Sub-Committee Reports & Updates

Mr. Solomon reported that the Housing Authority grant work is nearing completion at the Housing Authority properties.

Mr. Feegel reported that the Water Committee will meet on Thursday, March 28th at 5:30pm.

Ms. Cunningham reminded everyone that the Library survey is still underway.

Mr. Knotek asked residents to consider applying for town boards and committees.

Mr. Markham would like a letter sent to the residents who spoke tonight to apply for boards and commissions.

Mr. Werme thanked those that attended the Listening Sessions.

Ms. Wanat reported that the field use committee that is looking at future fields for the Hawks football met and have found some potential future fields.

New Business

Update, Discussion & Potential Action Regarding Town Owned Environmental & Conservation Easements

Ray Zatorski, Vice Chairman of the Planning & Zoning Commission and Rowland Rux, Planning & Zoning Commission member provided information on the conservation easement on High Point Drive. The Planning & Zoning Commission always gives as much latitude to property owners as is within statutes and regulations to present their side of the issue. In this case the property owner indicates that proof exists that there was a previous building on the property and if so a building would be able to be grandfathered in. The Commission has yet to see proof of a stairway to the river. The property owner has asked for continuances. Mr. Zatorski will be making a motion based on what is presented at the

next meeting in April. He also indicated that they are always looking for conservation easements in developments in order to protect the environment.

Update, Discussion & Potential Action Regarding Erosion Control Measures

Mr. Solomon reported that there is visibly brown water flowing into the lake coming from the pond below Town Hall and from the development behind Town Hall. Mr. Motto and John Tucci of Everblue Lakes agreed on some actions to help with the contamination, most of which has been done. An installation of Aquaflex near the Poets section will be done in early April. He feels the Town Council should work on the Town's permitting process. He and other Council members feel there should be a joint meeting with Town Council, Inland Wetlands, Planning & Zoning Commission, the Conservation-Lake Commission and town staff regarding permitting and approvals.

A motion was made by Mr. Solomon, seconded by Ms. Wanat, to plan a workshop with the above groups to discuss permitting and enforcement procedures and recommend improvements to those processes. Voted (7-0)

Town Manager's Report

Mr. Cox provided his written report for the Council members which will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office. He highlighted that early voting is in process.

Appointments

A motion was made by Mr. Knotek, seconded by Ms. Wanat, to reappoint Bonnie Berkovich to the Commission on Aging with a term through December 31, 2026 and Daniel Roy to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board with a term through December 31, 2026. Voted (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Knotek, seconded by Ms. Wanat, to move Chris Dart from a full member to an alternate member of the Middle Haddam Historic District Commission with a term through December 31, 2028 and move Casey Donnelly from an alternate member to a full member of the Middle Haddam Historic District Commission with a term through December 31, 2025. Voted (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Knotek, seconded by Ms. Wanat, to appoint Mary Milewski to the Economic Development Commission with a term through December 31, 2024. Voted (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Knotek, seconded by Ms. Wanat, to appoint Robert Hart as an alternate member of the Conservation-Lake Commission with a term through June 30, 2026. Voted (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Knotek, seconded by Ms. Wanat, to appoint Dale Herrick to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board with a term through December 31, 2026. Voted (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Knotek, seconded by Ms. Wanat, to appoint Robert Spooner to the Brownfields Redevelopment Agency with a term through June 30, 2028. Voted (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Knotek, seconded by Ms. Wanat, to appoint Anne Loranger to the Library Advisory Board with a term through December 31, 2025. Voted (7-0).

Tax Refunds

A motion was made by Mr. Feegel, seconded by Mr. Solomon, to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$2,966.54. Voted (7-0).

Public Remarks

Chuck Yenknor, 65 Spellman Point Road, commented that if the developers are not obeying the law they need to be stopped. The Council can't affect the regulations, but they should give management direction to the regulatory boards.

Chris Osterman, 15 Lakewood Road, feels there is a lack of oversight on development. Things need to happen now to avoid more drainage into the lake.

Derek Johnson, 36 Lakewood Road, noted the need for a full-time Town Planner and a moratorium/temporary freeze should be placed on development to protect the town.

Karen Johansmeyer, 16 Penny Corner Road, Portland, supports the comments of Barbara Moore with respect to tourism and inquired about a fife and drum muster in town and also commented on the lake.

Communications, Correspondence & Announcements

Letter to Residents Regarding Wopowog Road Culvert Replacement

Letter from Siting Council Regarding Cell Tower at 94 East High Street

Council members received the two letters indicated above and also a thank you letter was received from Jo Ann Ewing for her retirement party.

Executive Session

Land Acquisition

A motion was made by Ms. Wanat, seconded by Mr. Knotek, to enter Executive Session at 8:19pm to discuss land acquisition with Town Attorney Richard Carella and Town Manager David Cox invited into the session. Voted (7-0).

No action will be taken after Executive Session other than Adjournment.

Executive Session ended at 9:18pm.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Knotek, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to adjourn the meeting at 9:18pm. Voted (7-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Sirois
Recording Clerk